

The middle part of this story shows the spunky (and spankable) side to Victoria that often gets overlooked in favor of the demure screamer image. I'm talking about the sequence where she is left in the charge of Thonmi while the Doctor and Jamie go out exploring on the mountain, and she insists on doing her own exploring around the monastery, much to Thonmi's horror. She is told repeatedly that she should not go to the Inner Sanctum, but as soon as she is separated from Thonmi she makes her way there, defying not only him but also the older monks Sapan and Rinchen who have directed her toward the courtyard. One of them brings her back, but then she slips away from Thonmi as he's going to bring her food. After nosing around the Sanctum and being sent away by the voice of Padmasambhava, she next finds herself picking up a control sphere and putting it into a dormant Yeti's chest cavity...

All this takes place in episode 3 as it was screened, and it sets us up nicely for an episode 4 scene that unfortunately **wasn't**! After the reanimated Yeti has escaped, the transmitted version shows Khrisong holding an enquiry into the whole affair. The Doctor and Jamie are still away from

the monastery, but in my version the subplot involving Travers on the mountain has been delayed a while: he is still at Detsen and present when Victoria is questioned. Thonmi explains how she persistently and wilfully insisted on snooping around the most holy places of the monastery: 'She has not been brought up in the path of obedience,' he says.

'I can see that,' interjects Travers. 'And if she were my daughter, I'd know what to do about it!'

'Then I count myself lucky not to be your daughter,' replies Victoria, thrusting her chin defiantly out.

'Oh, you do, do you?' says Travers, seeing red. 'Well, this is one situation where I think your father would thank me for taking on the paternal duty he isn't here to do himself.' And saying this he seizes Victoria by the arm and turns her over his knee. But there is a moment's delay...

Travers looks down at Victoria's britches, drawn tight over her curvaceous bottom, and experiences a twinge of gentlemanly restraint. It's not as if he **is** her father, and what's more, he's British: there are proprieties to observe. Unless he is to lay his own hand across an intimate part of a lady's anatomy, he will need an appropriate implement. 'Khrisong, old man,' he says, 'You wouldn't happen to have such a thing as a wooden hairbrush about the place?' The warrior monk shakes his bald head, and Travers' requests for slipper and cane are equally fruitless. Victoria just lies there, resigned to the inevitable: she knows that her father probably **would** spank her if he were alive. Her legs loll in the air, unable to reach the ground from her prone position, and her upturned bottom quivers first with anticipation and then with the impact of a firm slap from Travers' palm. Never one to shirk responsibility, the explorer has accepted that he must make do without civilized amenities, and proceeds to give the wailing, kicking girl a spanking that is efficient without being too severe.

The smacks and yelps resound through the monastery passageways, mingling with the chanting of the monks. And over Travers' knee, the values of the British Empire are forcefully imposed on the young Victorian girl, turning yet another part of the globe to red.

Victoria is soon released. Thonmi speaks out in her defense: although she deserved the chastisement to cure her disobedience, he says, she meant no harm in what she did. The upshot, as on screen, is that they are both locked up; and, in a change from the original, Travers leaves the monastery to go look for the missing Yeti. The story is now ready to proceed on its televised course, except that, during the scene in the cell that follows, Thonmi gathers together a large pile of the straw bedding, to help Victoria. After all, she can't now sit down on anything else...